

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942649
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0115

April 2, 2009

California Legislature

John Muller, Chair
San Francisco Bay Regional
Water Quality Control Board
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Strong Trash Provisions in Municipal Stormwater Permit

Dear Chairman Muller and members of the Board:

We are writing to express our support for effective, measurable reductions in trash in our creeks and the Bay as a requirement in the Water Board's pending Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit (MRP), which covers 75% of the Bay Area.

Trash pollution is a serious water quality issue for San Francisco Bay and its creeks. Much of the trash in our water is plastic, which never biodegrades. Bay wildlife such as harbor seals and migratory birds eat trash or become entangled by it, suffer and die. Trash has a negative impact on property values, public recreation and tourism, fouling our shoreline and devaluing our region. Governor Schwarzenegger's Ocean Protection Council has cited marine debris as a top threat to California's beaches and bays, and the Governor approved an action strategy to combat the problem that emphasizes screening trash from stormwater, and reducing trash generation at the source. We know the Bay Area public cares about trash - 19,556 Bay Area residents volunteered to pick up trash on Coastal Cleanup Day 2008.

The Regional Board is to be commended for its leadership in recognizing that the MRP is an essential part of a comprehensive public policy to protect the Bay from trash and marine debris. The Board has identified trash as a pollutant of concern and also recently listed 26 creeks and much of the Bay as trash impaired under the Clean Water Act. Because the Board intends to address these impairments through the MRP, it is critical that the permit includes measured yearly reductions in trash and mandates immediate action to address known trash problems.

As the Board has noted, there are "ubiquitous, unacceptable levels of trash in waters of the San Francisco Bay Region." (MRP Fact Sheet, 2/11/09.) We are concerned that successive drafts of the permit's trash control provisions have been progressively weaker. This stormwater permit must clearly articulate the dual goals of zero trash and no impairment to beneficial uses.

The LA Regional Board has made clear progress toward achieving a goal of "zero trash." In the Bay Area, we should do no less.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

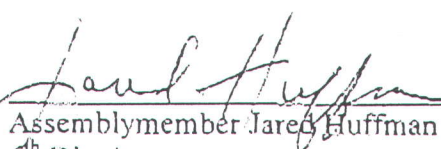


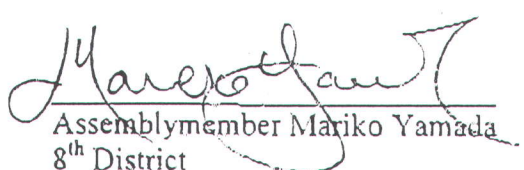
Senator Loni Hancock
9th District



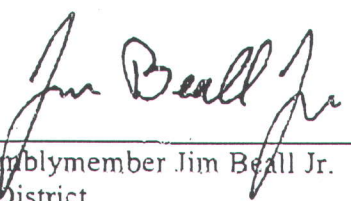
Senator Mark DeSaulnier
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Senator Leland Yee
8th District

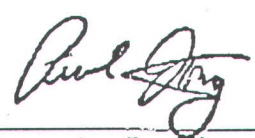
Assemblymember Jared Huffman
6th District

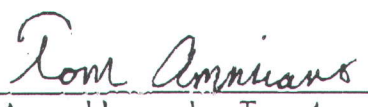
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Assemblymember Jerry Hill
19th District

Assemblymember Jim Beall Jr.
25th District

Assemblymember Fiona Ma
12th District

Assemblymember Noreen Evans
7th District

Assemblymember Paul Fong
22nd District

Assemblymember Tom Ammiano
13th District

SENATOR LONI HANCOCK
9TH DISTRICT



DISTRICT OFFICE

PHONE: (510) 286-1333

FAX: (510) 286-3885

CAPITOL OFFICE

PHONE: (916) 651-4009

FAX: (916) 327-1997

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

DATE: 4-3-09

PAGES (INC. COVER): 3

TO: San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

PHONE NUMBER:

FAX NUMBER 510-622-2460

FROM: ☐ Loni Hancock ☐ Missy Lundgren ☐ Sue Vang
☐ Hans Hemann ☐ Rebecca Baumann ☐ Martha Toscano
☐ Marla Cowan ☐ Terri Waller ☐ Melissa Male
☐ Terri Waller ☐ Tiffany Whiten ☐ Pedro Rosado
☐ Other:

IN: ☐ DISTRICT OFFICE ☒ CAPITOL OFFICE

RE:

☐ URGENT ☐ FYI ☒ AS REQUESTED ☐ CALL TO DISCUSS

COMMENTS: MRP Comments